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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1901

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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Mr. Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445- 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Powell:

I am writing to request the Commission stay the effective date of its decision on line sharing, which was a component of the Triennial Review Order recently issued by the Commission. A coalition of competitive, local exchange carriers and DSL providers will be harmed by the Commission's decision to phase out the availability of line sharing.

In Maine, DSL has recently been deployed at a rapid pace, and at substantially reduced prices, thanks to firms like Great Works Internet (GWI) which uses shared loops to provide DSL throughout Maine. Access to the use of line sharing means many rural communities are finally able to access high-speed Internet connections at newly affordable prices. As real progress toward bridging the "digital divide" is being made, the Commission's Triennial Review Order is threatening to end that progress. Any phase-out of line sharing will require DSL providers to purchase entire loops, which they do not need, rather than using only the high-frequency portion of the loop needed to provide DSL service. Not only will this result in an inefficient use of resources but also in a spike in the price of high-speed Internet connectivity, especially in rural communities.

Whatever the merits of the decision to phase out line sharing, GWI believes the FCC decision could seriously affect their viability as a company. In light of the serious implications this ruling would have for DSL providers, GWI and others plan to challenge the FCC ruling in court.

I urge you to grant a stay so that GWI and other DSL providers will not be impeded by your Triennial Review decision while the coalition seeks judicial review of that Order.

Sincerely,

Tom Allen
Member of Congress

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